

In the claims

Claims 33 to 37 (Cancelled)

Claims 38 (Currently Amended) A bowler's finger pad shield for protecting a finger pad from the force produced when applying lift to a bowling ball, to rotate or spin the ball at its release, comprising:

a) a finger pad shield with an open end adapted for insertion of a finger pad, said finger pad shield including a first surface and a second surface, extending from said open end; said first surface including a contact area located proximate said open end and positioned relative to said open end to receive a finger pad;

e) b) said second surface is opposed to said first surface;

d) c) said finger pad shield is adapted for insertion into the finger hole of a bowling ball, to place said second surface in contact with a bowling ball finger hole; and wherein

e) d) said finger pad shield includes at least one fastener to hold said contact area in a fixed relationship with a finger pad; wherein a force produced in the release and lifting of the bowling ball, is spread over said contact area, and
~~The bowler's finger pad shield of claim 33,~~ wherein said finger pad shield includes a raised surface for contacting the surface of a bowling ball; said raised surface is located proximate said open end and adapted to limit the depth of insertion of said finger pad shield into the finger hole of a bowling ball.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented) The bowler's finger pad shield means of Claim 38, wherein said raised surface extends in a direction away from said finger pad shield and said contact area.

Claim 40 to 44 (Cancelled)

Claim 45 (Currently Amended). A bowler's aid for assisting a bowler in applying the a bowler's maximum natural force through the bowler's finger pad inserted in a bowling ball finger hole, in lifting and rotating the bowling ball at its release, comprising,

a) a finger pad shield with an open end adapted for insertion of a finger pad on said finger pad shield; said finger pad shield including a contact area located proximate said open end and adapted to receive a finger pad in said contact area; and wherein,

b) said finger pad shield is substantially rigid to resist deformation from a force produced when a maximum natural force is applied through a finger hole of said bowling ball, to lift and rotate said bowling ball at its release, and to spread said force produced, over said contact area and ~~The bowler's aid of claim 40,~~ wherein said finger pad shield includes a raised surface extending away from said finger pad shield and said contact area and adapted to contact the surface of a bowling ball; and limit the depth of insertion of said finger pad shield into the finger hole of a bowling ball.

Claims 46 to 52 (Cancelled)

Claim 53 (Currently Amended) A bowler's finger pad shield for protecting a bowlers finger pad when inserted into a bowling ball finger hole, from the force produced when lifting the bowling ball to apply spin or rotation at its release, comprising,

a) means for forming a contact area with a finger pad;

b) means for holding a finger pad in a fixed position with said means for forming a contact area and in a fixed position with a contact area formed with said means for forming a contact area with a finger pad;

b) c) said means for forming a contact area with a finger pad including means for spreading a force produced when applying lift to said bowling ball, at its release, over said contact area, ~~The bowler's aid of claim 46 and~~ including means for contacting the surface of a bowling ball to limit the depth of insertion into the finger hole of a bowling ball of said means for forming a contact area with a finger pad.

Claims 54 to 58 (Cancelled)